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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 102856 TOSEC 110266

44
ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 CCO-00 /017 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

NO. 24

SIMEON BOOKER COMMENTARY, WESTINGHOUSE RADIO, APRIL 27:

"IN THE PAST YEARS, THE FEW AFRICAN JUNKETS OF LEADING AMERICAN PUBLIC OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN OF THE 'SHOW BIZ' VARIETY. THE TRIP FURNISHED OFFICIALS SUCH AS THE THEN VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON, ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT KENNEDY AND VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY A CHANCE TO REWARD LOYAL BLACK SUPPORTERS WITH A LONG JOURNEY BACK TO THEIR HOMELAND. THE POLITICAL ANGLE WAS THAT THE AFRICAN HOSTS WOULD REALIZE THAT BLACKS HAD MADE IT IN AMERICA.

"FOR HIS FIRST TRIP TO AFRICA, SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER HAS SCRAPPED THE 'SHOW BIZ' TRADTION. HE INSISTED THAT EVERY PERSON ON HIS PLANE BE A WORKING MEMBER -- EITHER ON HIS STAFF OR WITH THE NEWS MEDIA. SOME BLACK REPUB-LICANS TRIED TO INFLUENCE THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ALONG
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SOME BLACK PARTY LEADERS. BUT SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS MORE

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INTERESTED IN TRYING TO NEGOTIATE A NEW AFRICAN POLICY THAN IN ALLOWING THE TRIP TO BECOME A GOOD-WILL MISSION WITH A STRONG POLITICAL OVERTONE.
"THERE WILL BE QUALIFIED BLACKS INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER. TWO AMERICAN BLACKS SERVE AS AMBASSADORS IN COUNTRIES WHICH THE SECRETARY WILL VISIT. US AMBASSADOR DAVID BOLEN, AN ECONOMIST AND EXPERT ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, WILL JOIN THE PARTY IN ZAIRE. IT'S HEARTENING TO FIND SECRETARY KISSINGER MORE INTERESTED IN FINDING NEW CHANNELS FOR PEACE IN AFRICA THAN USING THE TRIP AS A POLITICAL TOOL TO WOO BLACK VOTERS."

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